

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-01 /012 R

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DRAFTED BY: USOAS:MDION:JD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

XMT AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100815

FOLLOWING REPEAT MONTEVIDEO 1442 ACTION SECSTATE INFO HQ USSOUTH-
COM SCSA 26 APR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1442

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, UY

SUBJ: NEXT MOVES IN OAS REFORM

REF: A) MONTEVIDEO 1349, (B) STATE 099361

1. AT FONMINISTER BLANCO'S REQUEST, DIRECTOR FOREIGN
POLICY, ALVARO ALVAREZ, CALLED ME TO SEE HIM APRIL 26
ON OAS REFORM, SPECIFICALLY ON U.S. INITIATIVE FOR
STUDY GROUP (STATE 070440), BLANCO'S SUBSEQUENT
MEMORANDUM (REF. A), AND TO INFORM ME OF RESULTS OF
SOUNDINGS TAKEN BY GOU AFTER BLANCO'S MEMORANDUM HAD
BEEN HANDED TO ME. IN GOU'S OPINION, RESULTS OF
THESE SOUNDINGS LEAD IT TO BELIEVE THAT ATMOSPHERE
NOT AS FAVORABLE AS IT HAD PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT AND
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IN TURN HAVE LED TO CHANGE IN GOU POSTURE. SITUATION

AS SEEN BY GOU, THEREFORE, DIFFERENT FROM THAT
PROJECTED IN REFS A AND B.

2. ALVAREZ SAID GOU HAD CONSULTED WITH URUGUAY'S
AMBASSADOR TO OAS AS WELL AS WITH ABOUT EIGHT OTHER
COUNTRIES "THAT COUNT" ON U.S. PROPOSALS. ALVAREZ
PREFERRED NOT LIST ALL COUNTRIES CONSULTED, BUT DID
MENTION MEXICO, ECUADOR, CHILE, ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY.
HE SAID AS RESULT THESE CONSULTATIONS BLANCO NOW
CONVINCED THAT IDEA OF SMALL STUDY GROUP HOWEVER CON-
STITUTED WOULD NOT PROSPER. NOR WOULD PROPOSAL THAT
THOSE WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN INVOLVED IN WORK OF
CEESI BE EXCLUDED. WHAT ALVAREZ TOLD ME, THEREFORE,
RELATED DIRECTLY TO WHAT BLANCO HAD PREVIOUSLY SAID RE
PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ESTABLISHING SMALL GROUP PARTICULARLY
AS RELATED HIS EARLIER FEARS ON DESIRE OF ALL TO BE
INVOLVED AND WITHOUT BEING WILLING DELEGATE AUTHORITY
OR RESPONSIBILITY TO GROUP ON WHICH THEY NOT REPRESENTED.
SO FAR AS GOU CONCERNED, WE NOW BACK TO SQUARE ONE WITH
A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

3. ALVAREZ COMMENTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE AT LEAST A
PARTIAL WAY AROUND PROBLEM WHICH WOULD SERVE TO ACCOMMODATE
OUR INTERESTS BUT WITHOUT MEETING THEM WHOLLY EVEN THOUGH
HE RECOGNIZED THAT BLANCO INITIALLY HAD SUPPORTED IDEA OF
SMALL STUDY GROUP. HE REMINDED ME, HOWEVER, THAT BLANCO
HAD POINTED OUT PROBLEMS INVOLVED AND RESISTANCE THAT WOULD
BE ENCOUNTERED. ALVAREZ SUGGESTED THAT SINCE SOUNDINGS HAD
INDICATED THAT MAJORITY OF LATIN AMERICANS SEEMED TO
FAVOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, AND THAT FORMER PARTI-
CIPANTS IN CEESI WORK COULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY BE
EXCLUDED, BEST WAY TO PROCEED WOULD BE TO AVOID
EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION AT SANTIAGO OASGA AND PRODUCE
SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD RESOLUTION EXTRUSTING
BODY ON WHICH ALL REPRESENTED WITH REEXAMINATION OF CHARTER
AND OTHER ASPECTS OF OAS REFORM. HE SAID HE FAVORED
SANTIAGO OASGA CONVOKING SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR
LIMA BUT WITHOUT SETTING DATE.

4. STUDY GROUP CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL
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MEMBER STATES WOULD ACT AS COORDINATING BODY, BUT WOULD
DO ITS WORK IN SMALLER GROUPS (STUDY GROUPS) WITH MEMBERS
OF THESE GROUPS HAVING POWER TO NEGOTIATE AND THEN REPORT
BACK TO COMMITTEE OF WHOLE WITH AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS.
HE THOUGHT THESE SUB-GROUPS, WHICH HE REFERRED TO AS STUDY
GROUPS, COULD EACH WORK ON A SPECIFIC PROBLEM OR SET
OF PROBLEMS.

5. ALVAREZ SAID GOU AND BLANCO STILL FAVORED WHAT U.S. WAS TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH IN REFORM EFFORTS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BE OF HELP. STRESSED AGAIN, HOWEVER, THAT GOU'S SOUNDINGS INDICATED OUR PROPOSALS SIMPLY WOULD NOT WORK BUT THAT GOU'S NEW ATTITUDE DID NOT DETRACT FROM BLANCO'S CONTINUED BELIEF THAT STRENGTHENING AND REVITALIZATION OF OAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. ALVAREZ REPEATED THAT OUR STUDY GROUP IDEA WAS GOOD ONE, BUT WOULD NOT PROSPER AND COULD WELL REPRESENT A BACKWARD STEP SINCE ITS WORK WOULD HAVE TO GO TO LARGER BODY OF WHOLE IN ANY EVENT AND OUTCOME WOULD BE, MORE THAN LIKELY, OBJECTIONS BY COUNTRIES NOT PARTICIPATING IN STUDY GROU WHICH COULD MEAN THAT STUDY GROUP WORK WOULD HAVE BEEN IN VAIN.

6. I REPEATED OUR ARGUMENTS FOR SMALL STUDY GROUPS, SAID WE WERE STILL OPEN ON ITS COMPOSITION AND URGED THAT GOU GIVE MATTER FURTHER THOUGHT SINCE BLANCO HAD ORIGINALLY FAVORED IT AND IN FACT MADE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS. ALVAREZ SAID HE APPRECIATED ALL THAT HAD BEEN SAID BEFORE IN FAVOR OF OUR POSITION, BUT REGRETTED THAT GOU'S SOUNDINGS INDICATED CHANGED SITUATION BECAUSE OF LA SENSITIVITIES AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAD NOW MADE CLEAR TO GOU THAT OUR SMALL STUDY GROUP IDEA HAD NO CHANCE OF BEING ACCEPTED.

7. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS CONVERSATION WITH ALVAREZ CONSTITUTES DISCUSSIONS ENVISAGED BY REF B SINCE I DID URGE GOU TO CONTINUE TO LOOK AT OUR PROPOSAL AND GIVE ME FURTHER THOUGHTS ON RESOLVING CHARTER IMPASSE. GIVEN PRESENT GOU ATTITUDE, WHICH MAY ALSO ARISE IN PART FROM SECOND THOUGHTS ON ITS OWN, AND SINCE SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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OF COUNTRIES GOU CONSULTED APPARENTLY NEGATIVE FROM BEGINNING, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO SUGGEST TO LIEVANO AND FACIO THAT THEY ASSIST BY DISCUSSING OUR PROPOSALS FURTHER WITH BLANCO PROVIDED OF COURSE THEY COMPLETELY WITH US.

8. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH PASS THIS MESSAGE TO OTHER LA POSTS IF IT SO SEES FIT.
HAAHR UNQUOTE SISCO

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